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PATENT

Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 5729.0015-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Masayoshi HIROSE et al.)
)
U.S. Patent No. 5,476,414) Group Art Unit: 3723
)
Application No.: 08/993,893) Examiner: R. Rose
)
Filed: December 18, 1997)
)
For: POLISHING APPARATUS)

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of this Request for Continued Examination.

A copy of Japanese patent 58-126063 and its English translation are attached. Also enclosed is a copy of the European Search Report, which was issued in a corresponding European divisional application after the issuance of U.S. Patent No. 5,476,414. Copies of the listed non-English documents were previously submitted with corresponding English language abstracts in the parent application, which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,476,414. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

consider the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449 and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

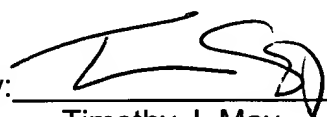
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 23, 2002

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